

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CERP--4291 MINERALS QUESTIONNAIRE, CHAD

REF: STATE A-2779

1. IN RESPONSE ATTACHMENT REFAIR, FOLLOWING INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL CHADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ON PRODUCTION (EN PLAQUES) AND VALUE (MILLIONS OF FRANCS CFA) OF NATRON FOR YEARS 1970 THROUGH 1974:

A. 1970--187,674 PLAQUES (41.4 MILLION F. CFA).

B. 1971--NO STATISTICS AVAILABLE IT IS POSSIBLE THERE WAS NO PRODUCTION THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF SURPLUS STOCKS WHICH HAVE EXISTED IN RECENT YEARS, BUT EMBASSY UNABLE CONFIRM THIS.

C. 1972--67,928 PLAQUES (11.6 MILLION F. CFA).

D. 1973--56,150 PLAQUES (10.0 MILLION F. CFA).

E. 1974-119,759 PLAQUES (23.6 MILLION F. CFA).
NO STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE REGARDING PRODUCTION OR VALUE OF CRUSHED NATRON, SINCE CRUSHING IS USUALLY DONE AT LEVEL OF SMALL LOCAL MERCHANT.

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2. WITH REGARD TO QUESTION REGARDING MINERAL EXPLORATION

ACTIVITIES CHAD, MR. OUMAR ABDOUL, GOC DIRECTOR OF MINES AND GEOLOGY, INFORMED EMBASSY ECON OFFICER THAT GOC CARRYING OUT MINERAL EXPLORATION WITH ASSISTANCE OF THREE YEAR UNDP FINANCED PROJECT, WHICH DIRECTOR HOPES WILL BE EXTENDED. PROJECT BEGAN NOVEMBER 1973. EXPLORATION IS CONCENTRATED IN 10,000 SQUARE KILOMETER AREA OF MAYO KEBI IN SOUTHWESTERN CHAD. PROJECT HAS INVOLVED SETTING UP BASIC LABORATORY TESTING FACILITIES N'DJAMENA, FIELD EXPLORATION, AND TRAINING OF CHADIAN TECHNICIANS. PRELIMINARY GENERAL EXPLORATIONS STILL IN PROGRESS, BUT DIRECTOR INDICATED EMPHASIS BEING GIVEN TO COPPER, PLATINUM, GOLD, AND NICKEL. THERE IS NO RPT NO PRODUCTION YET OF MINERAL MATERIALS IN TEST LOTS OTHER THAN FOR SMALL LABORATORY TESTS.

3. GOC DIRECTION OF MINES IS NOT RPT NOT CONDUCTING ANY PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, WHICH IS BEING HANDLED BY CONOCO-TCHAD. NO RPT NO OTHER PRIVATE COMPANIS ARE EXPLORING FOR MINERALS IN CHAD. ALTHOUGH PAST EXPLORATIONS HAVE SHOWN INDICATIONS OF URANIUM IN NORTHERN B.E.T. REGION OF COUNTRY, THERE IS CURRENTLY NO RPT NO ACTIVE EXPLORATION IN REGION BECAUSE OF SECURITY PROBLEMS.LITTLE

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